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Talking Points for the DCI  
(02 September 1983)

### The Syrian Role

The Syrians at a minimum have been involved indirectly in the fighting.

- We have not confirmed [ ] that Syrian artillery batteries were directly engaged in shelling Beirut this week. NATO military attaches who observed Syrian positions west of Beirut during the week saw guns pointed toward the city but no firing. 25X1
- The massacres of Christians Wednesday night took place in Syrian-controlled territory, but it is unlikely Syrian troops were directly involved.
- Nevertheless, we have confirmed reports that Damascus is providing the Druze and other pro-Syrian militias with intelligence and logistical support, weapons and ammunition. [ ] 25X1

Foreign Minister Khaddam claims that Syria's position is to favor national reconciliation in Lebanon, but it is clear that Damascus wants reconciliation on Syrian terms.

- The Syrians are pressing Junblatt and Shia leader Nabih Barri to hold out for sweeping concessions from Gemayel;
- Khaddam told Ambassador Paganelli Thursday that a pre-condition for political talks will be the withdrawal of the LAF from West Beirut and a declaration by Gemayel that he will not use the Army until reconciliation is achieved. [ ] 25X1

Damascus sees an opportunity to press for the realization of its goals in Lebanon:

- halting progress toward an extension of government authority which, in the Syrian view, would amount to consolidation of Christian Phalange control over Lebanon;
- abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanese Agreement;
- the establishment of a national unity government that would propose constitutional reforms for new power-sharing arrangements, be responsive to Syrian interests, and unwilling to reach an accommodation with Israel. [ ] 25X1

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